THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

[CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.] A renewal of the appropriation for compil-ing the official records of the war, etc.

The condition of our Navy at this time is a subject of satisfaction. It does not contain, it is true, any of the powerful cruising iron-clads which make so much of the maritime strength of some other nations, but neither our continental situation nor our foreign policy requires that we should have a large number of ships of this character, while the situation and the nature of our ports continue to make those of other nations little dangerous to us. Under any circumstances our Navy does contain, however, a considerable number of iron-clads of the monitor class which, though not properly cruisers, are powerful and THE NAVY DEPARTMENT. number of iron-clads of the monitor class which, though not properly cruisers, are powerful and effective for harbor defense and for operations near our own shores. Of these all the single-turreted ones, fifteen in number, have been substantially rebuilt, their rotten wooden beams replaced with iron, their hulls strengthened and their engines and machinery thoroughly repaired, so that they are now in most efficient condition and ready for sen as soon as they can be manned and put in commission. The five double-turreted iron-clads belonging to our Navy, by far the most powerful of our The five double-turreted fron-clads belonging to our Navy, by far the most powerful of our ships for lighting purposes, are also in hand undergoing complete repair, and could be ready for sea in periods varying from four to six months. With these completed according to the present design, and our two iron torpedo boats now ready, our iron-clad fleet will be, for the purpose of defense at home, equal to any force that can be readily brought against it. Of our wooden navy also, cruisers of various sizes to the number of about forty, including those now in comnavy also, cruisers of various sizes to the num-ber of about forty, including those now in com-mission, are in the Atlantic, and could be ready for duty as fast as men could be enlisted for those not already in commission. Of these, one-third are in effect new ships, and though some of the remainder need considerable repairs on their the remainder need considerable repairs on their boilers and machinery, they all are, or can readily be made, effective. These constitute a fleet of more than lifty war ships, of which fifteen are iron-clads, now in hand on the Atlantic coast. The Navy has been brought to this condition by a judicious and practical application of what could be spared from the current appropriation of the last few years and from that made to meet the possible emergency of two years are. It has been done from the current appropriation of the last few years and from that made to meet the possible emergency of two years ago. It has been done quietly, without proclamation or display, and though it has necessarily straitened the department in its ordinary expenditures, and, as far as the iron-clads are concerned, has added nothing to the cruising force of the Navy, yet the result is not the less satisfactory, because it is to be found in a great increase of real rather than apparent force. The expenses incurred in the maintenance of an effective naval force in all its branches are necessarily large; but such force is essential to our position, relations and character, and affects seriously the weight of our principles and policy throughout the whole sphere of naval responsibility. The estimates for the regular support of this branch of the service for the next year amount to a little less in the aggregate than those made for the current year, but some additional apprepriations are asked for objects not included in the ordinary maintenance of the Navy, but believed to be of pressing importance at this time. It would, in my opinion, be wise at once to afford sufficient means for the immediate completion of the five double-turreted monitors now undergoing repairs, which must otherwise advance slowly and only as money can be tors now undergoing repairs, which must other-wise advance slowly and only as money can be spared from current expenses. Supplemented by these, our Navy, armed with the destructive weapons of modern warfare, manned by our scamen and in charge of our instructed officers, will present a force powerful for the house nowwill present a force powerful for the home pur poses of a responsible, though peaceful nation THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The report of the Postmaster-General, herewith transmitted, gives a full history of the department for the year just passed. It will be observed, that the deficiency to be supplied from the General Treasury is increased over the amount required for the preceding year. In a country so vast in area as the United States, with large portions sparsely settled, it must be expected that this important service will be more or less a burden upon the Treasury for many years to come; but there is no branch of the public service which interests the whole people more than that of cheap and rapid transmission of the mails. The commercial advantages to be gained by a direct line of American steamers to South American States will far outweigh the expense of service. By act of congress approved March 3, 1875, almost all matter, whether properly mail matter or not, may be sent any distance through the mails in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight for the sum of 16 cents up repound. So the mails in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight for the sum of 16 cents per pound. So far as the transmission of real mail matter goes the law be so amended as to exclude from the mails merchandise of all description and limit this transportation to all articles enumerated and which may be classed as mail matter proper.

THE BLACK HILLS. THE BLACK HILLS.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills, a portion of the Sioux reservation, has had the effect to induce a large emigration of miners to that point. Thus far the effort to protect the treaty rights of the Indians of that section has been successful, but next year will certainly witness a large increase of such emigration. The negotiations for the relinquishment of the gold fields having failed, it will be necessary for Congress to adopt some measures to relieve the embarrassto adopt some measures to relieve the embarras to adopt some measures to relieve the embarrass-ment growing out of the causes named. The Secretary of the Interior suggests that the sup-plies now appropriated for the sustenance of that people, being no longer obligatory under the treaty of 1868, but simply a gratuity, be issued or withheld at his discre-tion. The condition of the Indian Territory, to which I have referred in several of my former annual messages, remains practically unchanged. annual messages, remains practically unchanged. The Secretary of the Interior has taken measures to obtain a full report of the condition of that Territory, and will make it the subject of a special report at an early day. It may then be necessary to make some further recommenda-tions in regard to legislation for the government of that Territory.

THE PATENT-OFFICE.

The steady growth and increase of the business of the patent-office !:dicate in some measure the progress of the industrial activity of the country. The receipts of the office are in excess of its expenditures, and the office generally is in a prosperous and satisfactory condition.

OUR PUBLIC LANDS. The report of the General Land-office shows that there were 2,459,491 acres less disposed of during this than during last year. More than one-half of this decrease was in lands disposed one-half of this decrease was in lands disposed of under the Homestead and Timber-culture laws. The causes of this decrease is supposed to be found in the grasshopper scourge and the drouths which prevailed so extensively in some of the frontier States and Territories during that time as to discourage and deter entries by actual settlers. The cash receipts were less by \$600,-32,23 than during the preceding year. The entire surveyed area of the public domain is 680,-233,694 acres, of which 26,677,331 acres were surveyed during the past year, leaving 1,154,-471,762 acres still unsurveyed.

THE PENSION BUREAU. THE PENSION BUBEAU.

The number of pensioners still continues to decrease, the highest number having been reached during the year ending June 30, 1873. During the last year 11,557 names were added to the rolls and 12,977 were dropped therefrom, showing a net decrease of 1,420. But while the number of pensioners has decreased the annual amount due on the pension rolls has increased \$4,43,313. This is caused by the great increased average rate of pensions, created by the liberal legislation of Congress. At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension liberal legislation of Congress. At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension rolls 244,821 persons, of whom 210,363 were Ar-my pensioners, 105,478 being invalids and 104,-85 widows and dependent relatives; 3,420 were Navy pensioners, of whom 1,636 were invalids, and 1,784 widows and dependent relatives; 21,638 were pensioners of the War of 1812, 15,875 of whom were survivors and 5,163 were widows. It is estimated that \$29,333,000 will be required for the payment of pensions for the next fiscal year, an amount \$956,000 less than the estimate for the present year. for the present year.

GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS. The geological explorations have been prose-cated with energy during the year, covering an area of about 40,00 square miles in the Terri-tories of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, de-veloping the agricultural and mineral resources, and furnishing interesting scientific and topo-graphical details of that region.

THE INDIAN QUESTION. The method for the treatment of the Indians adopted at the beginning of my first term has been steadily pursued and with satisfactory and encouraging results. It has been productive of evident improvement in the condition of that race, and will be continued with only such modi-decation as further experience may indicate to be THE CENTENNIAL.

THE CENTENSIAL.

The board heretofore appointed to take charge of the articles and materials pertaining to the War, the Navy, the Treasury, the Interior and the Post-office i cpartments and the Department of Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Commission of Food Fish, to be contributed under the legislation of last session to the International Exhibition to be held at Philadelphia during the Centennial year, \$75, has been diligent in the discharge of the luties which have devolved upon it, and the propositions so far made, with the charge of the duties which have develved upon it, and the propositions so far made, with the means at command, give assurance that the governmental contribution will be made one of the marked characteristics of the exhibition. The board has observed commendable economy in the matter of the erection of buildings for the Government exhibit, the expense of which it is covernment exhibit, the expense of which it is estimated will not exceed, say \$ 5,0,000. This amount has been withdrawn under the law from the appropriations of five of the principal departments, which leave some of those departments without sufficient means to render their respective practical exhibits complete and satisfactory. The exhibition being an international one and the Covernment heins a voluntary can respective practical exhibits complete and saus-factory. The exhibition being an international one and the Government being a voluntary con-tributor, it is my opinion that its contribution should be of a character, in quality and extent, to sustain the dignity and credit of so distin-guished a contributor. The advantages to the country of a creditable display are in an interna-tional point of view of the first importance, while an indifferent or uncreditable participa-tion by the Government would be humiliating to the participic feelings of our neonle themselves. the patriotic feelings of our people themselves. I commend the estimates of the board for the

recessary additional appropriations.

The powers of Europe, almost without exception, many of the South American States, and even the more distant Eastern Powers have many the control of itested their friendly sentiments toward the United States, and the interest of the world in our progress is evinced by the steps taken to join with us in celebrating the Centennial of the Nation, and I strongly recommend that a more national importance be given to this exibition by such legislation and by such appropriation as will insure its success. Its value in bringing to our shores innumerable useful works of art and skill, the commingling of the citizens of foreign countries and our own, and the interchange of ideas and manufactures will far exceed any pecuniary outlay we may make.

DOCUMENTS TRANSMITTED. I transmit herewith the report of the Commis sioner of Agriculture, together with the reports of the Commissioners, the Board of Audit and the Board of Health of the District of Columbia, to all of which I invite your attention. The Bu-rean of Agriculture has accomplished much in disseminating useful knowledge to the agricul-turist and also by introducing new and useful productions adapted to our soil and climate, and are worthy of the continued encouragement of the Government. The report of the Commission-er of Education, which accompanies the report of the Secretary of the Interior, shows a gratifying progress in educational matters.

MORMON POLYGAMY. I have called attention to the anomalous, not to say scandalous, condition of affairs existing in the Territory of Ctah, and have asked for definite legislation to correct it. That polygamy should exist in a free, enlightened and Christian country, without the power to punish so flagrant a crime against decency and morality, seems pre-posterous. True, there is no law to sustain this unnatural vice, but what is needed is a law to punish it as a crime, and at the same time to fix the status of the innocent children, the offspring of this system and of the possibly innocents plural wives; but as an in-titution, polygamy should be banished from the land.

wives; but as an in-titude, polygany should be banished from the land.

While this is being done, I invite the attention of Congress to another, though perhaps no less an evil, the importation of Chinese women, but few of whom are brought to our shores to pursue

few of whom are brought to our shores to pursue honorable or useful occupations.

LAWS REGULATING LAND SALES.

Observations while visiting the Territories of Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado during the past autumn, convinced me that the existing laws regulating the disposition of public lands, timber, etc., and probably the mining laws themselves, are very defective and should be carefully amended and at an early day. In a Territory where the cultivation of the soil can only be followed by irrigation, and this is not practicable, the lands can only be used as pasturage, and this only where stock can reach water to quench its only where stock can reach water to quench its thirst, and cannot be governed by the same laws as to entries as lands every acre of which is an independent estate by itself. Lands must be held in larger quantities to justify the expense of conducting water upon it to make it fruitful or to justify utilizing it as pas-turage. The timber in most of the Territories is principally confined to the mountain regions, which are held for entry in small quantities only The timber is the prop and as mineral lands. The timber is the prop-erty of the United States, for the disposal of which there is now no adequate law. The set-tler must become a consumer of this timber whether he lives upon the plains or is engaged in working the mines; hence every man becomes either a trespasser himself or knowingly a pa-tron of trespassers. My concortunities for obeither a trespasser nimself of knowingly a pa-tron of trespassers. My opportunities for ob-serving were not sufficient to justify me in recommending specific legislation on these subjects, but I do recommend that a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress, sufficiently large to be divided into sub-committees, be organized to visit all the mining States and Territories during the coming summer, and that the committee shall report to Congress, at that the committee shall report to Congress, at the next session, such laws or amendments to laws as it may deem necessary to secure the best interest of the Government, and the people of these territories, who are doing so much for their development. I am sure the citizens occupying the territories described do not wish to be tres-passers, nor will they be if legal ways are provided for them to become owners of these actual necessities of their positions.

As this will be the last annual message which I shall have the honor of transmitting to Congress befere my successor is chosen, I will repeat or recapitulate the questions which I deem of vital importance which should be legislated upon and settled at this session. First—That the States and settled atthis session. First—That the States shall be required to afford the opportunity of a good common-school education to every child within their limits. Second—That no sectarian tenets shall be ever taught in any school supported in whole or in part by the State or Nation, or by proceeds of any tax levied upon any community; make Education compulsory so far as to deprive all persons who cannot read and write from becoming voters after the year 1890. from becoming voters after the year 1595; disfranchising none, however, on grounds of illiteracy who may be voters at the time this amendment takes effect. Third—Declare church and State forever separate and distinct, but each free within their proper subere, and that all church property shall. oper sphere, and that all church property shall proper sphere, and that all church property shall bear its own proportion of taxes. Fourth—Drive out licensed immorality, such as polygamy and the importation of women for illegitimate purposes. To recur again to the Centennial year—it would seem as though now, as we are about to begin the second century of our national existence, would be the most fitting time for these reforms. Fifth—Enact such laws as will secure a speedy return to a sound currency, such as will command the respect of the world. such as will command the respect of the world. Believing that these views will commend them selves to the great majority of the right-think-ing and patriotic citizens of the United States, I submit the rest to Congress.

[Signed] U. S. GRANT. EXECUTIVE MANSION, Dec. 7, 1875.

Rangoon Mail, been extensively placardlation of this document shows that it is not of an altogether comfortable nature: "Leong Yeon Kee, Governor of Tsum Soo, a Minister of the Emperor forty-nine days be set apart to feast the Chinese evil spirit. There will this year be scarcity of rice and plenty of sickness. Evil spirits will descend to ful examine and inquire into the sickness. If people do not believe this, many will die in September and October. Should die in September and October. Should any people call you at midnight, do not answer; it is not a human being that of the Rio Grande, Adjutant-General Steele. calls, but an evil spirit. Do not be wicked, but be good."

MEXICAN BORDER OUTRAGES.

How American Citizens are Murdered

AS, SAN ANTONIA, Sept. 10, 1875,-Sir: 1 have the honor to report that since I took command of this department in April last the troops stationed therein have been kept busy scouting, building telegraph lines, keeping posts in repair, and attending to other legitimate duties. Weekly target practice has been kept up at every point, and has resulted in fair progress where post and company commanders have taken proper interest in that all-lin-portant branch of a soldier's education.

A campaign against predatory Indians is now being vigorously prosecuted by a column composed of six companies of the 10th cavalry, two companies of the 24th infantry. and I company of the 25th infantry, under command of Lieutenaut-Colonel Shafter, 24th infantry. The Indians against whom Col. Shafter is operating probably came from Mexico, and, after depredating on the set-tlements of Northwestern Texas, have rereated to the edge of and into the Staked Plains. So far his parties have been suc-cessful only in destroying one Indian camp and material, and capturing a portion of the stolen animals in their possession. He will remain in the field as long as there is a chance of finding Indians.

The most important border difficulties, however, from which the western portion of this department suffers occur on the lower Rio Grande, where some of the most promi-nent officers and wealthy merchants of that part of Mexico have for some time been regularly engaged in the business of fitting out parties to plunder the stock ranches on this side of the river, and where—as was to be expected from the Americans—there was a disposition not to submit to be plundered: citizens who opposed or gave information against the raiders were murdered. Shortly after I took command of the department 1 received reports of the murder in open daylight of several prominent citizens—one of them a United States Collector, another a United States Postmaster—and the robbing of their premises; also of an attack upon and the killing of a patrol of soldiers, all done by some of the armed bands of Mexicans who, it was reported, were continually run-ning large herds of American stock across into Mexico. To such a degree were the few American inhabitants of the counties bordering on Mexico intimidated by the frequent murders and threats against Americans generally by these raiders and their friends and allies among the large portion of vagrant Mexicans on our side of the river, that they, with the exception of one family, left the country and fled to the towns.

REIGN OF TERROR.

Throughout the valley of the Rio Grande, from the mouth for a distance of 200 miles up the river, and from 140 miles back from it, crops and herds have been abandoned, and people dared not travel except in armed parties. Civil law outside of the towns was suspended, and sheriffs and judges reported to me that it was unsafe to attempt to execute processes of law unless the officers of the law were accompanied by soldiers to

proptect them. Under these circumstances the Governor of the State applied through me and directly for a sufficient military force to protect the frontier, stating his inability to do so with the means at his disposal. I was directed to inform him that it is "the duty of the troops on the Rio Grande frontier to protect all the officers of the General Government, and as far as possible aid the State authorities in protecting the people against organized bands of marauders from any quarter," which I did; at the same time I called at-tention to the grave character of the invasion, and the importance of prompt and decisive measures by the Government of the United States. The State had but one small though active company of cavalry on that frontier, and the United States had five quite small companies of the 9th cavalry seattered along the river at a distance of 200

The valley of the river for this distance is almost a jungle twenty or thirty miles wide, with winding paths and roads cut through a intervals. The soil is a rich alluvium, and even with the rude cultivation practiced by the Mexicans produces a large yield of corn. cotton and sugar-cane. A large number of small ranches and Mexican buts, or "jacare scattered along, generally near the river. The population of these is entirely Mexican. Their occupation appears to a traveler along the road to be principally screening themselves from the sun in hot weather and riding from ranch to ranch. At nearly all the ranches visited by me I notieed a surplus of armed men, and that horses were kept saddled. The Americans say it is impossible to discover who are hostile and engaged in raiding, for the population is changing all the time and Mexicans from the west bank claim a residence on either side, to suit their convenience, and claim immunity as American citizens from any interference by the military without due process of law. This claim they can establish by the easy process of swearing to whatever is necessary, so that a dozen or more can assemble at a ranch in the United States from Mexico or eisewhere and defy inter-

THE RAIDERS OF THE RIO GRANDE. In short, this vailey is the only part of Texas where the Mexicans have continued in possession since the treaty of Guadaloupe. and whenever Mexican troops, recruited perhaps from the prison or composed largely of criminals, have been sent to the Rio Grande border, they have deserted almost en masse, taking refuge on the east bank of the river, where they join the rogues who infest that country, and live upon either bank, as it may suit their convenience. The honest Mexicans who own ranches on our side and have some few cattle and horses left are more in dread of the Mexican troops on the border than any one else. The river is no obstacle to the raiders, for since the treaty A LITHOGRAPHED Chinese circular made its channel the line between the two on yellow paper has, according to the countries frequent changes have occurred, and points of land have been cut off, and Rangoon Mail, been extensively placard-ed over Rangoon. The following trans-lation of this document shows the state of the river. These are used as places of rendezvous for the larger raiding parties, who can cross at their leisure and quietly assemble in that part of Mexico, and after a reconnoissance suddenly appear at some unprotected ranch, perhaps a hundred Canton, brought three letters from Teo miles from the river, kill any who resist. east out as many cattle as they need, and run them to the river, where tame oxen from of China at Pekin, who has ordered that the Mexican side are kept tied and without water. These being loosed go for the river and home, leading the herd of stolen cattle rapidly across, where no United States authority has so far dared to follow, and where the people turn out to welcome the successspoilers of "los Americanos,

Early in last June, after I had, as above stated, drawn the attention of the Government to the grave character of these frequent

mine he answered as follows:

and Robbed-Bands of Raiders Organized and Fostered by the Wealthy Natives-Official Report of Gen. Ord to the
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXborder, School States Army, Commanding Department of Texas-General: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to reply to your impulsies in reference to affairs on the Rio Grande

inquiries in reference to mains on act to border, seriatim.

1. Have you any reason for believing that General Cortina is still in the Mexican service?

This question is settled, as General Cortina has been sent under arrest to the City of Mexica 'tor disobedience of orders,' I was informed in Matamoras, Mexica, that Cortina was a Brigadier General in the Mexican Army, but, as he was not in active service, was receiving half they

Pay. 2. Has he, as far as you could learn, been selling cartie, beef, etc., to parties supplying the Spanish Government?

During my visit at Brownsville, Texas, I met Senor Yaguno (or Slayum), a Spanlard, a trader, whom I had known for lifteen years. Senor Yaguno told me he had come to Texas to buy cat. tle to take to Havana, Cuba. Senor Yaguno said to me: "I went some fifty miles into Texas with to me: "I went some lift, miles into texas with the intention of purchasing beeves from some of the big cattle men of Texas, but I found out I could do better in Matamoras, Mexico, and I returned there and bought the cattle I desired from Cheno." I asked who Cheno was. He replied, "Cheno Cortina Juan Nepomuceno Cor-tina.

Senor Yaguno told me he had contracted with Cortina for 3,000 head of cattle, to consist of 2,000 beeves and 1,500 mixed cattle; that he was to pay \$11 per head, delivered at Bagdad, Marker

Senor Yaguno told me the steamer was then at Senor Laguno told me the steamer was then at the Boca del Rio, waiting for the first cargo of cattle. The name of the steamer, I believe, was frene of Ninc.

3. Did you learn how he furnished the cattle

and whose they were?

More than two thirds if not all the cattle furnished were Texas cattle. Cortina made the first delivery of cattle at Bagdad, Mexico. Sergeant Hall, of Captain L. H. McNaily's company, State troops, an intelligent and most trustworthy man, was sent, disguised, to inspect the cattle at Bagdad and on the lighters that were loading the steamer. He reported that the most of the cattle shipped had American brands—branded with Captain R. King's, of Santa Gertrades, Nucces County; Capt. Kennedy's, Judge Parker's, and other brands of citizens of Texas.

1. Were any of his employees killed while driving across recently to Mexico; if so, how many, etc., and who? and whose they were?

.. and who? ctc., and who?

I believe all the men killed by McNathy's com-pany of rangers on the 12th day of June, 1875, were employees of General Cortma.

were employees of General Cortina.

An Inspector of Customs of the port of Brownsville was abound the lighter whilst taking cattle on the Mexican bank of Rio Brayo, and he made an affidavit (which I believe is in the hands of Adjutant-General William Steel, at Anstin, Texas), to the effect that he saw General Cortina supermental in person the delivery of cattle at Bagdad. Mexico, and that he recognized one Pancho Looza, one Guardinese Espinosa, and Jose Maria Alvaim, alias Abuja, who were with Cortina at the time.

orting at the time. The dead be lies of Pancho Lepez, Guadalupe, Espinosa and others were recognized among these killed by Captain McNally's company, and it was well known that Algain, aims Abuja, arrived at Matamoras severe y wounded, he being the only one of the cattle thieves who es-

caped.

These raiders were taking about 250 head of time beeves to make up the less load for Havaua.

5. How many of the lower or more desperate Mexicans could Cortina muster to aid him in a raid, and did you learn if a large party crossed recently intending to attack towns and villages; it so, why did the attack fail, etc.;

From all Leands asserting to account to the country of the country o

From all I could ascertain Cortina could easily raise at least 2,600 well armed men.

The raiders that depredated on the Nucces River came from the Republic of Mexico. This is not even denied by Mexican citizens in Matamoras and Camargo, Mexico.

It was a resulting investion of Texas. The waid

moras and Camargo, Mexico.

It was a positive invasion of Texas. The raid was to have been more extensive, as a great many more raiders than those who eventually came to the Nucces River crosses the Rio Grande River and met at a rendezvous in the interior of Texas, but lucking, in consequence of a disagreement among themselves as to who should assume command of the expedition, the party broke up, and most of the raiders returned to Mexico, but one of the chiefs got a party to follow him, and made the successful raid, having, within five miles of Corpus Christi, stolen money, watches, clothing, goods, arms and horses, and totally destroyed by fire the store of Mr. Noakes.

Mr. Noakes wounded one of the raiders, named Godina, who was hung at Corpus Christi.

ed Godina, who was hung at Corpus Christi. raiders wounded a citizen named Smith at

Noakes' store, I was informed by a Mexican gentleman, a lawyer and man of standing in Matamoras, Mexico, that he knew that Cortina had organized and ico, that he knew that Cortina had organized and encouraged the raid in Texas. Eight of the raiders, on their return from Texas with their booty, were arrested in Camargo and Mier, Mex-ico. Every one of them was mounted on horses bearing American brands, as reported by Mr. Avery, the United States commercial agent at

The raiders, from all accounts, came princi-ally from Los Cuevas, Reynosa, La Bolsa and atamoras, Mexico. In conclusion, I would say that I gathered the above information during a tour of inspection and observation in conjunction with General William Steele, the Adjutant-General of Texas, under official instructions of his Excellency Gen-

cral Coke.
I have the honor to be, General, very respect fully, your obedient servant, [Signed] JOSEPH E. DWYER. BANDITS IN COMMAND OF GOVERNMENT

GUARDS. Major Dwyer is one of the most reliable men of this city, and was urged by me to go with General Steele, because he was frienddisposed towards Mexican citizens generally, and had expressed the belief that the reports of raiding were much exaggerated. d thought the Americans as much to blame as the Mexicans.

I have learned from a gentleman of reliability that the present commander of the Justom-house guards, at Mier, Mexico, is a notorious bandit, and led the party that nurdered Mr. Lovell, in May last, and plundered the United States Custom-house at Carizo. I have received letters from or conversed with nearly every United States and State official from Brownsville to Rio Grande City, and without exception they corroborate the statements which I have given. The Catholic Bishop of that district, who has visited, I suppose, every ranch from the Brazos to Mier, and who doubtless has the interest of native Mexicans at heart and at one time thought the Americans to blame, assured me that in his opinion there would be no peace in that country for our citizens until the Sierra Madre should be made the boundary line.

I believe the United States is able to preerve the integrity of and enforce a proper regard for its own soil without extending

A VIGOROUS AND AGGRESSIVE POLICY REC-OMMENDED.

The arrest of Cortina by the Mexican Government, due to the order of the President sending a naval force to the Lower Rio Grande, could easily have been followed up by an attack upon and breaking up of the nests of robbers at Los Cuevas, Guerrero and other points well known to the Mexican authorities.

It seems to me that the circumstances he plunder of the stock ranches on the Rio Grande are almost identical with the piracies committed on our commerce at one time by the Algerines, who fled in security to their own ports with their prizes. There the offenses were committed on the open sea; here they are committed with the same ease on the open plain. In both cases the pirates found a ready sale for their captures in the ports where their expeditions were titted out, namely, Algiers and Tripoll, etc., for the Moors: Matamoras, Reynso, Camargo, Mier, and Guerrero for the Mexicans, and in both cases the pirates were rewarded by promotion and honors. Patrolling the country along the Rio Grande with a view of intercepting raiders before they can of this State, proceeded to the Rio Grande to investigate the alleged invasion of that border. At his and my request Mr. Dwyer, border. At his and my request Mr. Dwyer,

of this place, accompanied him as interpret- by scattering our cruisers along the north On his return, to sundry queries of coast of Africa with the view of intercepting some Algerine pirate before he could get within three leagues of the land with his

American prize.

The success of Captain McNally of the State troops in striking the party of Cortina's men in possession of stolen herds recently was due to his accidentally capturing 'wo straggling robbers, who, by the use of the only effectual means known in such cases, but not legitimate enough for regulars to ply, were compelled to betray the post for and the strength of their band.

I have good reason for believing that the order from the Mexican Government, for the arrest of Cortina was due to the order for the movement of a naval force to the Mexi-

can border. As Cortina was not the only leader of raiding bands, and the others are still at their old business, some more effectual means must be adopted than simply sending troops and sailors to look on while our people are being despoiled and murdered, for it is very evident that the sailors and soldiers, however willing, can do nothing if confined to this side of the river, and an order to make reprisals, with the means to carry out the order, has sometimes resulted in indemnity as well as security.

Copies of quite a number of affidavits and statements corroborative of what I here report, and received from United States and State officials, have been forwarded by me through the proper channel to the State De-partment. Originals of a part of these, numbered from I to 10, are forwarded here-I am, respectfully, your obedient servani.

E. O. C. ORD. Brigadier-General U. S. A., Commanding.

A Knowing Turtle.

In a certain town of Connecticut a man had planted his garden, and very near the water was a bed of encumbers. In the brook there, close by, a large turtle made his home, and he would frequently stray for hours on a large rock to sun himself. Now, this turtle liked cucumbers as well as boys and girls liked peaches. Every night he would go out among the vines, and make his supper from the fruit. Every morning the owner of the garden went out, and found his best encumbers, which he intended for his own dinner, eaten. This displeased him very much. He set traps, but that did no good; for the old turtle that knew enough to pick out the best cucumbers, for his supper, knew enough to keep out of traps. The man put up "scare-crows;" but the turtle wasn't afraid. Every night he went out of his mud-house, by traps and under scare-crows, and feasted till he could cat no more. But one morning he stayed too late. Mr. Wilson, who owned the garden, arose very early, and there he saw the thief scratching his way to the brook as fast as his scaly claws could carry him.

Mr. Wilson saw he must catch the turtle or lose his cucumbers. He watched for him very closely the next night, and just as he was enjoying a juicy mouthful, he put his foot under him and turned him over on his back. The old fellow clawed and struggled, and snapped with his seissors-like jaws; but it was of no use. He had been stealing too long to get away easily-Mr. Wilson put him into a barrel, won dering what he should do with him.

The next day, as Mr. Wilson was going to drive over to the store in the neighboring town, he thought he would put the troublesome turtle into his

wagon, and carrying him off. Now he had read of people's cutting letters on the back of turtles and letting them go, finding them again after many years. He thought he would try it. So he took his knife, and cut "A. W." in the turtle's back. And he cut a "square and compass" under his initials. He was sure he should know that turtle if he ever saw him again. Then off he drove, with his prisoner at his feet, in a basket. When he got about seven miles from home, he came to a bridge which crossed a river. Here he stopped and threw Mr. Turtle into the water, saying: "I guess you will not steal out of my

garden again very soon." Nothing more was seen or heard of the turtle that year. But the next season Mr. W. was in his garden one day, and looking into the brook, there, on the stone watch-tower, was the old tur-

The very same; a little larger than a dining plate now, but with "A. W." and the "square and compass" on his

Seven miles afoot! Isn't that pretty well for a turtle, boys? Who taught him to love his old home in the muddy brook? Who showed him the way back? What kind of "guide-boards" has God set up in the water and the grass to point out the road to a turtle?

I wonder if he sung "Home, Sweet Home," on the way! - Congregationalist.

An Eclectic Church has been formed? by the Rev. Alpheus Pickell, of Brush Creek, Iowa. The Eclectic Pope claims to be infallible. He proclaims only a limited punishment in the future life; denies the doctrine of the Resurrection as taught by the orthodox churches; rejects the promise of the Resurrection of Christ; pronounces bigamy the doctrine of reason and revelation, and enjoins the acceptance of the Eclectic Bible, which he is publishing in the Brush Creek Messenger, as the Word of